A naughty bit of horseplay (IN BED!) starts a rumpus

A BIT of horseplay by an accomplished Tzaneen artist is causing a storm of controversy among South African art lovers.

While the sexy "Horse and girl on a bed" paintings have captured the hearts of personalities like Mrs Mary Slack — Mr Harry Oppenheimer's daughter — who bought one for her bedroom for R5 400, some people phoned the police to remove the "disgusting" fantasy.

However, detectives from John Vorster Square's porn squad looked at the 16 paintings by Karin Jaroszynska at Johannesburg's Everard Read Gallery and decided to leave them as they were.

By EMIELIA JAROSCHEK

"We have decided not to remove the works of art, and have now placed the matter in the hands of the Directorate of Publications," a spokesman at John Vorster Square said this week.

While few can agree on whether the paintings are foul or fair, Mrs Slack, who promptly paid R5 400 for No 3 of the series — a picture of a girl and a horse lying on a check bedcover — feels they are "all absolutely beautiful".

"Some of the paintings would be difficult to hang, but Karin Jaroszynska is an incredibly accomplished artist," said Mrs Slack.

Mrs Jaroszynska, who took four months to paint the gripping series of 16 horse-and-girl scenes, in which a "naked-looking" horse slowly transforms into a man, said this week that there was nothing twisted about the idea.

"I love animals, and my paintings always concern animals in relation to human beings. This series involves a dream which becomes a reality — or the ripening of a human being," said Mrs Jaroszynska said.

"I cannot say more about it. Each person must come to his or her own conclusion of what he or she sees."

She said she had worked 12 hours a day on the paintings at her Tzaneen home. "I intended them for Europe, but I am very happy that they ended up being exhibited here."

Mrs Jaroszynska, who has a string of successful exhibitions dating as far back as 1965 to her credit, said she believed the paintings could be a sell-out, but would not elaborate.

Dampened

She said her artistic mood was somewhat dampened by the visit of the police, but she was extremely glad they had not decided to remove them after seeing them in their artistic surroundings.

Mr Mark Read, director of the Everard Read Gallery, in Rosebank, said about half the paintings had been sold to "a new generation of art lovers — people who found they could not live without paintings.

"It is a pity, though, that the series had to be broken up."

Speeding 'Miami Vice' star cops it

Sunday Times Reporter: Miami

MIAMI VICE star Don Johnson has been booked by police after a high-speed car chase.

Don, who plays undercover cop Sonny Crockett in the hit TV series that started on SATV last night, was caught roaring through the city at over 128 km/h in his silver Mercedes.

Johnson was booked for speeding but nearly got away with it . . . thanks to his friends in the real Miami force.

Officer Randall Kugler, 23, said Johnson told him, "I'm with 'Miami Vice'," but he still wrote out the ticket.

The ticket was cancelled by police commander Nelson Oramus, technical adviser to the top show, who said Johnson had done a tremendous amount of good for Miami and the community.

But later Florida police chief William Johnson said the ticket had to stand. Johnson paid the fine.